

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### APPLE GROWERS GET \$94 MILLION IN FARM BILL

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the new farm bill will include \$94 million in direct aid for apple growers. Hinchey led the effort to convince members of the House of Representatives to agree to the provision.

"Last year I added an amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations bill that would have provided apple growers with \$150 million," said Hinchey. "That number was cut in half after the bill was reconciled with the Senate version. The funds that will be provided by the farm bill make up the difference and provide a little more."

U.S. apple growers have sustained losses of \$1.5 billion over the past five years, including an estimated \$500 million during the past year. A glut of illegally dumped Chinese apple juice concentrate on the market was a major factor in those losses.

As a member of the Agriculture Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey authored an amendment to provide \$150 million in aid to apple growers. The amendment was included in the Agriculture Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002 that passed the House last summer. The Senate then passed its version of the bill without including any funding for this purpose. Serving on the House-Senate conference committee to resolve the differences in the two bills, Hinchey fought to preserve the funding. The conference report that was later signed into law contained \$75 million for the apple growers.

The farm bill provided another opportunity to obtain the necessary funding. Senator Patty Murray (WA) added an amendment to the Senate version of the bill to provide \$100 million in direct aid for apple growers. Hinchey led the fight for the measure on the House side. He learned today that the farm bill negotiators from the House and Senate have agreed on \$94 million for the apple growers.

"The US apple industry is suffering serious financial hardship for the fifth straight year," said Hinchey. "The apple growers of America are in great danger of going out of business if they don't get some help. The \$75 million will be helpful, but much more was needed. I'm thrilled that my colleagues have agreed."